

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ABF-01 SAM-01

CU-02 /078 W

----- 033166

R 230800Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7078

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PINS, IS, JO, UNRWA

SUBJECT: UNRWA FUNDING PROBLEM AND WEST BANK

REF: BEIRUT 6111 AND 6524

1. SUMMARY. UNRWA DIRECTOR FOR WEST BANK ANTICIPATES STAFF STRIKE AS MOST PROBABLE REACTION TO MAJOR CUTBACKS IN AGENCY PROGRAM BUT THINKS REFUGEE DEMONSTRATIONS ALSO POSSIBILITY. HE ASSUMED GOI WOULD ACT QUICKLY TO KEEP MATTERS UNDER CONTROL AND PREVENT ANY THREATENED VIOLENCE. TEACHERS HELD 36-HOUR SIT-IN AT UNRWA WEST BANK HADQUARTERS IN JERUSALEM MAY 19-20 TO PROTEST WHAT THEY CONSIDER UNFAIR TREATMENT OF WEST BANK IN ALLOCATIONS OF COST-OF-LIVING AND OTHER MONETARY BENEFITS AGREED BY UNRWA AND STAFF REPRESENTATIVES IN RECENT BEIRUT MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MAY 22 DISCUSSIONS, ALAN GRAHAM, DIRECTOR OF  
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UNRWA OPERATIONS ON WEST BANK, SAID HE THOUGHT MOST LIKELY

REACTION HERE TO MAJOR CUTBACKS IN UNRWA PROGRAM WOULD BE STRIKES BY UNRWA STAFF. HE THOUGHT DEMONSTRATIONS BY REFUGEES ALSO QUITE POSSIBLE BUT THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE NONVIOLENT. HE WAS SURE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WOULD ACT QUICKLY IF VIOLENCE OCCURRED OR WAS THREATENED AND WOULD NOT LET THINGS GET OUT OF CONTROL. HE NOTED STAFF THAT HANDLES RATION DISTRIBUTION HAS IN PAST, WHEN RATION CUTS WERE BEING CONSIDERED, THREATENED TO DISTRIBUTE FULL RATION ANYWAY, GRAHAM DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS WILL ACTUALLY OCCUR. THERE WAS SOME CHANCE OF RAIDS ON WAREHOUSES, HE THOUGHT, BUT STOCKS ARE KEPT LOW SO THIS DOES NOT POSE SERIOUS PROBLEM.

3. GRAHAM DID NOT KNOW BUT ASSUMED GOI LIKELY TO TAKE OVER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE CUT. HE ASSUMED PREPARATORY PROGRAM WILL BE ELIMINATED AND AT LEAST PART OF PRIMARY, UNLESS OPTION CALLING FOR NO EDUCATIONAL CUTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS ADOPTED. COST OF PRIMARY AND PREPARATORY EDUCATION IN WEST BANK IS ABOUT \$4 MILLION, SALARIES OF ABOUT 1,000 TEACHERS MAKING UP GREAT BULK OF EXPENSE. GRAHAM TOLD US THAT DURING MEETING EARLIER IN WEEK WITH VISITING UNRWA DEPUTY COMGEN MCELHINEY, MORDECHAI KIDRON (GOI MFA OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS) INQUIRED ABOUT PRESS REPORT OF POSSIBLE CUTBACK ALONG LINES OF THIRD OPTION REPORTED PARA 2(C) BEIRUT 6111. MCELHINEY WAS NON-COMMITTAL IN REPLY BUT GOT DEFINITE IMPRESSION GOI WOULD NOT LIKE SUCH DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

4. SOMEWHAT IRONICALLY, IN LIGHT OF UNRWA'S FINANCIAL PLIGHT, ABOUT DOZEN UNRWA TEACHERS HELD SIT-IN OUTSIDE GRAHAM'S OFFICE IN EAST JERUSALEM FROM 0930 MAY 19 TO EVENING MAY 20. TIME APPARENTLY CHOSEN TO COINCIDE WITH MCELHINEY VISIT. THEY WERE PROTESTING WHAT THEY CONSIDER UNFAIR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO WEST BANK FOR VARIOUS STAFF BENEFITS, INCLUDING COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCES AND RELATED ITEMS. ALLOCATION WAS RESULT OF RECENT BEIRUT MEETING AT WHICH STAFF REPS FROM ARAB HOST COUNTRIES AND AGENCY REPS AGREED ON MEMORANDUM COVERING THIS AND OTHER STAFF MATERS BUT WEST BANK AND GAZA STAFF

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REPS WITHHELD CONCURRENCE. SINCE PROTESTERS HAD NOT SUBMITTED COMPLAINTS THROUGH PROPER CHANNEL, I.E. PROVISIONAL STAFF COMMITTEE, GRAHAM REFUSED TO DEAL WITH THEM AND THEY EVENTUALLY DISPERSED VOLUNTARILY. SIT-IN AND COMPLAINTS GIVEN DISTORTED PLAY IN EAST JERUSALEM ARABIC DAILY AL SHAAB BUT OTHERWISE CAUSED LITTLE STIR.

5. COMMENT. AS WITH GAZA (TEL AVIV 2991), IT IS DIFFICULT

TO ASSESS HOW SERIOUS REACTION TO UNRWA CUTBACKS MAY BE  
ON WEST BANK, BUT WE SHARE VIEW THAT GOI WILL CRACK DOWN  
IF THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THINGS MAY GET OUT OF HAND.  
KNOWLEDGE OF THIS FACT WOULD SEEM LIKELY TO DETER WEST  
BANK REFUGEES FROM RASH ACTIONS. ON POSSIBLE DIFFERENTIAL  
TREATMENT OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN CUTBACKS, EVEN  
THOUGH RECOGNITION OF THEIR SPECIAL STATUS MIGHT BE  
WELCOMED BY ARABS, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE  
ADCOM MEMBERS WOULD AGREE THAT REFUGEES IN ARAB COUNTRIES  
SHOULD SUFFER MORE THAN THOSE WHO REMAINED IN PALESTIN.  
THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN LIGHT FACT MANY OF LATER ARE  
BETTER OFF ECONOMICALLY THAN THOSE WHO FLED TO ARAB  
COUNTRIES WHERE (WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF JORDAN) THEY LIVE  
AS OUTSIDERS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, REFUGEES, WEST BANK, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 23 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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